

Richmond Refinery LPS Bulletin – Safety

Richmond Lube Oil Plant (RLOP) –Bolt Loosening Injury



Impact ERM

Loss #: 24356

Location:

RLOP 14 Plant
Richmond Refinery

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Photo of re-enactment of improper technique of bolt loosening on E-1411 unit (4 hands on wrench).



Photo of proper bolt loosening equipment (torque equipment) for this job.

Tenets of Operations Violated:

- 2) Always operate in a safe and controlled condition
- 4) Always follow safe work practices and procedures

Incident Description:

On October 23, 2011 at approximately 3:00 a.m., a worker was injured while removing a control valve on the E-1411 unit at RLOP. The small finger of his left hand was pinched as he and another worker attempted to loosen a bolt with all four of their gloved hands on one wrench (see photo). The worker received nine stitches. Both employees were Short Service Employees (SSE) and were both experienced at their trade.

Investigation Findings:

- 1) Improper use of a tool while loosening a nut on a flange. Only one person should be on a wrench at a time.
- 2) Runners were available to retrieve the proper tool (torque equipment, hydraulic wrench) from the Tool Trailer.

Lessons Learned / Business Practices:

- 1) Complete an LPSA before every task. What is the Worst Thing That Could Happen?
- 2) Use Stop Work Authority if task's safety or procedure is in question.

Recommendations:

- 1) Review procedures for the mechanics/pipefitters for loosening bolts and verifying that the proper tool direction is provided to such individuals, and if it has not been provided, then provide such training to them.
- 2) Verify that the JHA addresses the specifics of bolt loosening procedures and activities.

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